

What can we do?

If you learn that a workplace near you is using workfare, let us know. Brighton Benefits Campaign is campaigning against all forms of workfare and all those who profit from it.

Write! Challenge workplaces to reveal whether they are using workfare. If they are, demand that they stop. If they're not, challenge them to publicly pledge not to use workfare.

Demonstrate! No employer likes the pressure and negative publicity brought by a protest against them. BBC will be organising regular protests against those using workfare. Join us, or organise your own demonstration and we will support you.

Organise! Only independent organisation can give workers the strength to keep workfare out of their workplaces. If there is a union in your workplace, raise the threat of workfare at a branch meeting and invite your branch to join the campaign. If there's no union at your workplace, talk to your colleagues and start to build one. For support in organising, contact Brighton Trades Council at brightontradescouncil@gmail.com

Know your rights! If you're unemployed, there are a number of workfare schemes, which have different rules and some of which you may not have to comply with. There are details about your rights at <http://www.boycottworkfare.org/?p=280>.

For further advice and support, contact the Brighton & Hove Unemployed Workers Centre on 540797.

Brighton Benefits Campaign

We are a group of workers & claimants who have joined together to fight welfare cuts & privatisation.

**We meet every Thursday at 6pm
in the Duke of Wellington, Upper Gloucester Road.**

email brightonbenefitscampaign@gmail.com

web <http://brightonbenefitscampaign.wordpress.com>

WORKFARE IS AN ATTACK ON US ALL!



the cycle of workfare

At a time when, we are told, 'the country is bankrupt', the government has found a way to give a massive handout to companies making millions in profits. This is workfare - forcing the unemployed to work for their benefits.

The government tries to divide us by pitting those in work against 'scroungers' who supposedly need to be forced into work. But workfare is as much an attack on those *with* jobs as those without them. What boss would want to employ a worker they have to pay, when the government will give them someone off the dole to do it for free?

The aim of workfare is simply to *drive down wages*.

WORKFARE

MYTH-BUSTER

The unemployed are lazy so they need to be forced to work - if they tried, they could get jobs

In reality, the vast majority of the unemployed *can't* get work, because there's no work for them to go to!

There are now more than 2.6 million unemployed people in the UK, chasing around 450,000 jobs. The unemployment total is at its highest in nearly 20 years and will rise even further because of the government's austerity programme.

Unemployment is not caused by the individual failings of the unemployed, but by capitalism. It will always be profitable for bosses to make sure there is a pool of desperate people they can use to make their workers fear for their jobs and accept lower wages and worse conditions; and it will always be in the interests of workers to unite with the unemployed to stop this.

Workfare placements lead to full time work

There is no evidence showing that workfare placements tend to lead to full time jobs.

A study by the DWP into workfare in the USA, Canada and Australia found that workfare 'can even **reduce** employment chances by limiting the time available for job search and by failing to provide the skills and experience valued by employers'. The same study also found that workfare is particularly ineffective at leading to work during periods of high unemployment.

Labour, Tories and Liberals alike have ignored the evidence in order to continue to give favours to their rich friends.

We shouldn't have to pay other people's benefits while we have to work

Those forced to do workfare are not actually paid anything by the companies they are assigned to! They are still only paid benefits out of tax money. Workfare does nothing at all to reduce the costs of welfare - the only people to gain from it are bosses who rake in free labour to bolster their profits. If there's work that needs doing, why shouldn't companies pay the people who do it?

The employers making greatest use of workfare are hugely profitable companies like Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Primark and Poundland. Tesco reported half-yearly profits of £1.9bn in the first part of 2011, while receiving a gift of 3000 free workers from the government. Directors of the FTSE 100 companies have seen their pay rocket up by 49% in 2011, and the 1000 richest people in the UK pocketed another £60bn for their enormous fortunes, but the rest of us are told that we need to make sacrifices.

The government would rather hammer ordinary people with austerity than see their own class pay a penny for the crisis they caused.

I've already got a job, this doesn't affect me

Workfare provides bosses with a powerful tool to push down wages and worsen terms & conditions, because they are given free labour. In New York, where workfare was introduced in the late 90s, many local government workers were simply sacked and their positions filled by those on workfare, who did not receive a wage and were not entitled to sickness pay, holidays, or any other rights. The same number of people did the same work, but received far less. If the drive to workfare is not stopped, every boss in the UK will be free to follow suit.